

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 22, 2008, and the cited art have been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the rejection of the application is respectfully requested based on the following discussion.

REJECTION 102:

1. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Gotoh US 6,215,266.

Gotoh '236 shows a vehicle lamp with a pressed seal having two opposed broad faces and two opposed narrow faces. The press seal is axially fitted in a metal retainer (sleeve).

Gotoh '236 fails to provide a prima facia case of invalidity under 35 USC 102, since Gotoh '236 fails to show, suggest, state or claim a limitation included in Applicants' claims. Gotoh '236 fails to teach "*...at least one of the narrow end faces (111) and the metallic base sleeve (3) are provided with matching means (1110, 33) for a latch connection.*" Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the rejected claims are therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the protrusion 12 shown in FIG. 1. Protrusion 12 is clearly formed on the broad face of the press seal. In the same FIG. 1, the side view of narrow end face 3 is flat with no protrusions and no recesses.

FIG. 2 showing an end view, also shows the broad side formed with a protrusion 12, and the narrow side 3 being flat, with no protrusions and no recesses.

FIG. 3 shows the retainer 13 with various spring fingers arrayed along the broad side of the opening, and no attachment features formed along the narrow side of the retainer.

FIG. 4 shows a cross section of the press seal. The protrusions 12 formed on the broad face latch to the spring fingers that are arrayed on the broad side of the retainer. No protrusions and no recesses are indicated on the narrow end face.

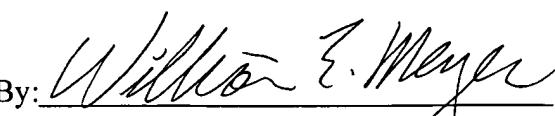
In every view of Gotoh '236, the narrow end face 3 is flat with no protrusions and no recesses. There is nothing formed on the narrow end face 3 to latch to. Gotoh '236 fails to show or suggest any latching feature formed on the narrow end face 3.

All views of the narrow end face 3 in Gotoh '236 appear to be flat. Only the broad front and rear faces show protrusions facing the latching fingers of the retainer (sleeve). No notch, protuberance, serrated ribbing or other latchable feature is shown in Gotoh '236 on either the narrow face of the press seal or on the narrow side wall of the sleeve. Gotoh '236 does not show, teach, claim or make obvious a lamp with a press seal having a *narrow end face including a shaped latch element*. Gotoh '236 does not show, teach, claim or make obvious a lamp with a sleeve for a press seal having a *narrow side wall a shaped latch element*.

It is not obvious to form a latching element on the narrow side wall of a press seal. The press feet form the broad faces of the press seal, while the narrow walls are free formed as the glass gushes outwards from the press. The narrow side wall may be irregular in form, but may be side pressed by slides to flatten and limit lamp width. Common lamp seal latches are formed by the broad sides of the press as indentations or protuberances. Nothing is formed on the narrow side walls, because the side edges can be thin and fragile, or irregularly filled. The narrow side face offers less of a surrounding orientation surface to align the latch. The side walls as a result have not previously been used for latching. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the rejected claims are therefore respectfully requested.

It is believed that a full and complete response to the Office Action has been made, that the Application as amended is patentably distinct over the cited art, and that the case is now in condition to be passed to issue. Reconsideration of the amended application is therefore requested, and an early favorable notice of allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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